

## Border yet undecided

SYDNEY, Aug 27: World record cricket run-getter Allan Border says he is unsure about pursuing the vacant Australian coaching position, reports AFP. Border has been among several ex-players mentioned as possible replacements for Geoff Marsh who this week announced the Current Sri Lankan tour would be his last assignment with the World Cup champions.

But Border, already a national selector, said he would need a few things to "fall into place" before he would consider accepting the job, should an offer be forthcoming.

"It has some appeal but there'd be a lot of things that have to fall into place in the meantime," he said Thursday. "I think there's going to be some outstanding candidates, so the board will have to weed through that process."

Australian Cricket Board chief executive Malcolm Speed said an interim coach would be appointed for the Zimbabwe tour in October and he hoped to have a permanent replacement before the start of the domestic season.

Speed said the ACB would also change the job description of the national team coach.

"It's a rather unusual coaching position," Speed said Thursday.

"As time moves on perhaps, the qualities that we're looking for in a coach change."

"So we're going to take the opportunity of Geoff's resignation to sit down and put some effort into re-designing the job description."

Speed said while the position would not be advertised, there were plenty of people ideal for the job.

"There are a number of good candidates and obviously Allan is certainly one of those," he said.

Others in the running include Queensland's Sheffield Shield coach John Buchanan, outgoing New Zealand Test coach and former Australian Test wicketkeeper Steve Rixon and South Australian coach and former Test skipper Greg Chappell.

## Miller not allowed to move

MELBOURNE, Aug 27: Australian Test bowler Colin Miller has lost his fight to transfer from Tasmania to Victoria next season after the Australian Cricket Board's appeals committee rejected the move, reports AFP.

But Miller, who leaves for Sri Lanka Friday, is seeking advice from a Queen's Counsel to test the validity of the transfer rules.

The committee sat for almost seven hours hearing the case after Tasmania refused to release him.

Australian Cricketers' Association chief executive Tim May said Miller, 34, was bitterly disappointed with the decision and was determined to stay in Victoria.

After seven years with Tasmania, Miller has returned to Melbourne for family reasons.

## Rios reaches last eight

BROOKLINE, Massachusetts, Aug 27: Second-seeded Marcello Rios of Chile needed to call upon his best clutch shots Thursday to overcome Daniel Nestor of Canada and advance to the quarterfinals in the US pro Championships, reports AP.

Rios, down two break points on his serve in the ninth game of the final set, survived 6-7 (6-8), 6-2, 6-4 in dramatic fashion. Nestor's serve at love with a succession of passing shots followed by the Canadian's double fault.

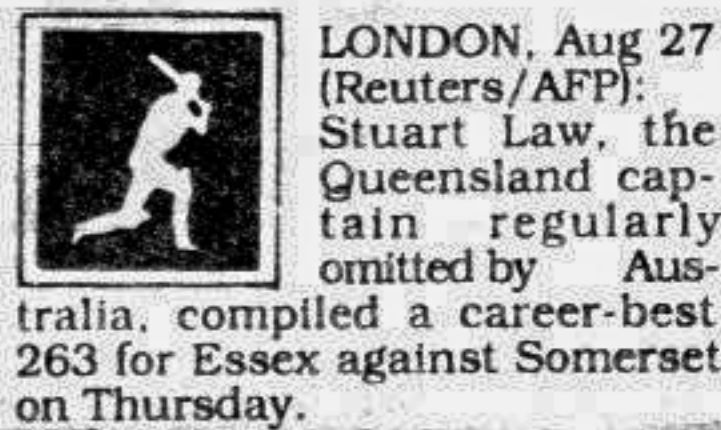


Bayern Munich's German international Oliver Kahn with the European Goalkeeper-of-the-Year Trophy. —AFP photo



Manchester United's Sir Alex Ferguson with the UEFA Manager-of-the-Year Trophy. —AFP photo

## Law lashes Somerset



LAW ... double ton

LONDON, Aug 27 (Reuters/AFP): Stuart Law, the Queensland captain, regularly omitted by Australia, compiled a career-best 263 for Essex against Somerset on Thursday.

Law raised his English county championship aggregate to 1,648 runs — an average of more than 86 for the season. He has completed eight centuries in his last 10 matches and needs two more to break the 65-year-old Essex record of nine in a season.

Essex totalled 544, a first innings lead of 298.

Essex resumed on 280 for four and Law, 135 not out at the start of play, batted throughout most of the day before falling victim to England pacemen Andy Caddick.

Somerset faced an uphill task just to make Essex bat again and their task was hardly helped when Marcus Trescothick was caught by that man Law off Ronnie Imani to leave them at 13 for one.

But their second innings was interrupted by bad light and Essex will hope conditions improve considerably if they are to cash in on another superb display by Law on the final day tomorrow.

In other matches, South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis missed out on a century when he was caught and bowled by Ashley Giles for 94 as Glamorgan reached 266 for seven in the rain-affected game against Warwickshire at Cardiff.

Kent and Yorkshire both

won with a day to spare. Third-placed Kent beat Northamptonshire by an innings and 12 runs, their fifth victory in six games.

At one stage, Kent were 41 for seven in reply to Northamptonshire's 69. They recovered to 167, then dismissed the visitors for only 86. Former England all-rounder Mark Ealham took six for 35.

Yorkshire overcame Nottinghamshire by three wickets in another low-scoring game that raised questions about the quality of the Trent Bridge pitch.

Yorkshire eventually made 144 for seven to win after looking in trouble at 43 for six. Nottinghamshire 184 (J Gallian 50, Hamilton 5-30, C White 4-44) and 144 (C White 4-32) v Yorkshire 185 (R Blake 60, P Franks 5-52) and 144-7.

At Derby: Surrey 350-9 dec (I Ward 103, G Thorpe 89) v Derbyshire 154 and 28-1.

At Riverside: Middlesex 222 (M Ramprakash 53, O Shah 52, S Harrison 4-51) and 59-3 v Durham 290 (J Lewis 98, R Johnson 4-102).

At Chelmsford: Somerset 246 (P Holloway 60, W Thompson 4-46) and 21-1 v Essex 544 (S Law 263, D Robinson 112, A Grayson 50, P Jones 4-126).

At Cardiff: Glamorgan 300-8 dec (J Kallis 94, M Maynard 72, R Croft 57 no, A Richardson 4-75) v Warwickshire 16-0.

At Southampton: Sussex 375 (M Di Venuto 93, J Bates 57, A Cottey 54, C Adams 53, S Udal 4-102) v Hampshire 76 (R Kirtley 7-21) and 250-3 (W Kendall 85 no, R Smith 66).

At Worcester: Worcestershire 227 (S Rhodes 74, P Martin 5-52) v Lancashire 19-2.

At Leicester: Leicestershire 214 (MS Kasprout 61, M J Cawdron 5-54) 347-7 (A Habib 141, J Dakin 124) v Gloucestershire 166.

her side reached 200 in the match, which will be the subject of a report by the official pitch

inspectors.

**BRIEFScores**

**At Canterbury:** Kent beat Northamptonshire by an innings and 12 runs.

**At Trent Bridge:** Yorkshire beat Nottinghamshire by 3 wickets.

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ham will be hoping to maintain their flying start to the season with victory over Leeds at White Hart Lane.

George Graham's Tottenham, tipped for mid-table mediocrity at the start of the season, have surprised the sceptics by winning three of their first four games with attractive, attacking football.

By contrast, Leeds, who finished fourth last season and are considered by some to be genuine title contenders this time round, have struggled for form and have won just twice in five outings.

Gianluca Vialli's Chelsea, unbeaten in their first three games, travel to London rivals Wimbledon while in-form Everton are away to strugglers Derby.

West Ham, who qualified for the UEFA Cup with victory over French side Metz on Wednesday, will be confident of securing all three points when they travel to Bradford.

**English Premiership on Saturday (matches start 1400 GMT)**

Aston Villa v Middlesbrough, Bradford v West Ham, Derby v Everton, Liverpool v Arsenal, Southampton v Sheffield Wednesday, Tottenham v Leeds, Wimbledon v Chelsea

**Sunday** Sunderland v Coventry (1500 GMT)

**Monday** Man Utd v Newcastle (1200 GMT)

Leicester v Watford (1900 GMT)

Lama has not appeared sharp this season and Bergeroo may be tempted to call up the younger Dominique Casagrande.

PSG had good news during the week when Brazilian forward Christian, a new signing from Internacional of Porto Alegre, finally put pen to paper after protracted negotiations.

Defending champions Bordeaux and last year's runners up Marseille both have home games as they seek to improve on a relatively slow start to the new campaign.

Bordeaux host Intertoto Cup flops Metz on Saturday night, while Marseille, whose coach

Weekend fixtures of the French First Division: Saturday

Marseille v Bastia, Sedan v St Etienne, Nancy v Lens, Bordeaux v Metz, Auxerre v Le Havre, Strasbourg v Rennes, Nantes v Montpellier

**Sunday** Lyon v Paris St Germain, Monaco v Troyes



Manchester United's David Beckham and his wife Victoria Adams leaving the UEFA gala. The England international was elected UEFA player-of-the-year. —AFP photo

## Records on roll at Sydney

SYDNEY, Aug 27: South African Penny Heyns and American Lenny Krayzelburg smashed further world records with astonishing victories at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships here Friday, reports AFP.

Heyns claimed her third record of the meet with a commanding victory in the 200 metres breaststroke and Krayzelburg completed a backstroke world record double with victory in the 200m event.

Ten world records have now been set in six days of competition in the Sydney Olympic pool. The Championships finish on Sunday.

The United States pulled back Australia in the gold medal chase with three victories Friday to take their tally to nine, two behind the host nation.

Jenny Thompson carried off the 100m freestyle gold and teammate Tom Wilkens landed the 200m medley to carry on from Krayzelburg's success.

Heyns, the Atlanta Olympic champion, lowered a world record for a seventh time in six weeks when she won the final in 2min 23.64sec eclipsing the record of 2:24.42 she set in the semifinal on Thursday.

Dual world champion Krayzelburg smashed the 200m record held by Spaniard Martin Zubero by 0.70 seconds. He set a new record of 1:55.87 and so far has two backstroke golds and two world records.

Zubero had held the record since November 23, 1991. The 23-year-old Ukrainian-born American swam the first 100m in 56.19 secs -- a sizzling 1.89 seconds under the world record split.

On Tuesday Krayzelburg broke the 100m backstroke world record with a time of 53.60sec to better compatriot Jeff Rouse's record of 53.86sec set at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

"I was really relieved more than anything, a lot of people have been talking about the record," said Krayzelburg, who still has the medley relay left to swim here.

"The 100m (world record) I was happy with, but this is the one I felt all the pressure for. I'm so excited by the time, I'm ecstatic."

Heyns turned in 1:09.16 under record pace and finished powerfully to leave world silver medalist Kristy Kowal (2:25.52) of the US in her wake.

"I felt in the last 50m that I was losing it mentally, I wasn't as tough as in the other evenings," Heyns said.

That's why I was so shocked at the time -- I can't believe it. It definitely is a boost for next year but apart from that it's fun because the crowd appreciates it so much."

Jenny Thompson won her 22nd championship title clocking 54.89secs in the 100m freestyle beating Australian pair, Sarah Ryan and Rebecca Creedy.

Wilkens put in a strong third breaststroke leg to hold on and win the 200m medley in 2:01.01 from Canada's Curtis Myden and Australian Matthew Dunn.

Outside of Heyns and Krayzelburg's records here, Australian Ian Thorpe has set three freestyle records, twice in the 200m and the other in 400m; Thompson broke Mary T. Meagher's 18-year-old 100m butterfly standard and the Australian 200m freestyle relay team beat their world record.

Commonwealth Games champion Geoff Huegill swam a championship record to give Australia a strong hand in the men's 100m butterfly.

Huegill clocked 52.45secs to shade world champion and record holder Michael Klim into Saturday's final. Klim won the other semi-final in 52.76, 0.61secs outside his world record.

So hot is the competition within the Australian ranks that Atlanta Olympic silver medalist Scott Miller, third fastest with 53.01secs, missed out on the final under the two swimmers per nation meet rule.

**MEDALS TABLE**

Medals table after the sixth day of the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships here Friday (tabulated under, gold, silver, bronze, total):

Australia	11	9	6	26
USA	9	9	7	25
Canada	2	3	5	10
S Africa	2	0	4	6
Japan	1	2	1	4
Costa Rica	0	0	1	1

(Australia and Japan shared one gold)

**Jones' season uncertain**

SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 27: American sprint queen Marion Jones' season has been thrown into doubt after her dramatic collapse during the 200m semifinal here on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

Less than 24-hours after being stricken by back spasms, Jones abandoned any idea of trying to compete in one of the relays to win a second gold to add to her 100m success last Sunday.

And her agent Charlie Wells admitted that he was not sure if Jones would be able to compete in the remaining three Golden League races, worth over 330,000 dollars to the 23-year-old sprinter if she wins all three 100m races.

The first Golden League is on September 3 in Brussels.

She would also get an estimated 500,000 dollar bonus from sponsor Nike if she won the Golden League title according to sources.

"We are taking it day by day. It is too soon to say if she will race in the rest of the Golden League programme," said Wells.

Jones was examined and treated for two hours after she pulled up in the home straight during the 200m race.

## World C'ships roundup



SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 27: Double Olympic champion Michael Johnson delivered the only thing missing from the 7th

It was a desperately needed filip for a championship still reeling from the injury that destroyed Marion Jones' dream of a sprint double.

Not only is Jones' championship over but her season has been thrown into doubt after her dramatic collapse during the 200m semifinal here on Wednesday night.

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A gutsy performance by Australian Cathy Freeman saw her successfully defend her

"This is definitely a greater achievement than Athens two years ago," she said.

"There I had no pressure on me because I was barely known but here I have had to cope with the extra burden of being the defending champion owed to come back from the foot injury that ruined last season," she added.

The pole vault got a new world champion for the first time in 16 years as Maksim Tarasov finally succeeded to the throne which Sergei Bubka has occupied ever since the first World Championships were staged in Helsinki in 1983.

A first-time clearance at 6.02 metres -- higher even than the great Bubka ever managed at a World Championships -- won the gold for the 28-year-old from Yaroslavl, Russia.

Dmitriy Markov, the former Belarussian now representing Australia, took the silver with 5.90, and Israel won their first ever World Championship medal through a former Russian decathlete, Aleksandr Averbukh (5.80).

Tarasov, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist, only had a brief scare at 5.96, when he needed to clear on his third attempt to stay in the competition. His first-time clearance at 6.02 metres, though, was very comfortable.

Gete Wami's desire to escape the poverty and hardships of life in Ethiopia paid off for her when she won the women's 10,000 metres title at the World Championships on Thursday.

Her victory brought her 60,000 dollars.

"Life is hard in Ethiopia," Wami said, "but if you train hard and win gold medals, then you win recognition and fame in my country."

"I came here thinking I could win a medal, and hoping that I would win the gold. The pace was fast, but I always felt strong and thought I would have a good finish," said the 25-year-old Wami, who now adds the World Track gold to her two World Cross-country titles.

Britain's Paula Radcliffe took the silver with marathon world record-holder Tegla Loroupe taking the bronze.



Ethiopian Gete Wami (L) being greeted by Kenyan Tegla Loroupe after the women's 10,000 on August 26. Wami won the gold and Loroupe the bronze. —AFP photo

World Championships here on Thursday -- a world record.

After headlines of drugs, injury, protests and upsets, the 31-year-old switched the spotlight firmly back on track by running the greatest 400 metres race in history to shatter the 11-year-old record of Butch Reynolds, reports AFP.

women's 400m title. The 26-year-old, who in 1996 became the first Aborigine to win an Olympic medal and in 1997 emulated that achievement by taking the world crown, beat home Germany's Anja Rucker (49.74) took the silver and Jamaica's Lorraine Graham (49.92) the bronze.

But it was the way he won that has made Johnson one of, if not the, greatest athletes in history.

The Waco express knew that the world record was his for the taking. He also knew he could not count on any help from the seven other finalists. None of them are capable of keeping up with him.

"I have always thought I could run 42 seconds, and I still

not panic in the final curve. I've always messed up when I am in as good a shape as I am now. I did not want to do that tonight."

Britain's former 400m runner Roger Black once admitted that any time Johnson was in a 400m final there were two races going on.

"Johnson races against himself. The rest of us are fighting for the silver. Anyone who thinks they can beat Johnson are fools," said Black.

The American covered the first 100m in 10.90sec. He hit the 200m in 21.00sec, nearly half a second faster than Reynolds. By the 300m mark he was almost a second ahead of Reynolds' record breaking time.

"Everything went according to plan. All my times were just what I had practiced in training," said Johnson.

From the moment Johnson took to the track here it was clear a world record was going to happen.

"I knew I was in shape. This is the first time I have ever said I was going to break the record. I have thought it many times but never said it," said Johnson.

His performance in the heats had been nothing short of frightening -- easing up as he hit the home straight and doing nothing more over the final 70 metres than necessary to win. Each time he was in sight of the record before slowing.

In the final the American hit the home straight and kept going for a pull away from the rest of the field.

As he crossed the line and saw his time Johnson shouted 'Yeah' and raised his index finger, telling the world he was number one.

A nearly packed Olympic Stadium was there to watch history being made in the toughest sprint of all.

It was an electric atmosphere as Johnson got ready. The normally noisy Spanish crowd suddenly went quiet as the runners got down on their blocks.

But when the gun went off the roar began.

"That was something special," said Johnson.

When Johnson was asked afterwards if he was the greatest athlete ever, he could not bring himself to say yes.

"I don't know," he replied. To those listening that was a yes -- and no one disagreed.

do," said the American, who earned a 100,000-dollar bonus for breaking the record to go with the 60,000 dollars for winning the title.

"I am very proud of myself. I could have broken 43 secs but there was no point in pushing. I just wanted to make sure I did

MAGNIFICENT MICHAEL: American track superstar Michael Johnson displays a poster showing the time he took to rewrite the 400-metre world record on August 26. —AFP photo

His win made him the first man ever to hold both the 200m and 400m world records. It also tied him with Carl Lewis for the most career gold medals at the World Championships. Both men have eight apiece.

And Johnson warned that there was more to come.

England coach Kevin Keegan also called up Chelsea striker Chris Sutton, whose international career had stalled after a row with former manager Glenn Hoddle.

Keegan also included five key players currently recovering from injury -- goalkeeper David Seaman, defenders Gary Neville, Tony Adams, Sol Campbell and teenage striker Michael Owen.

But there were no places for Middlesbrough midfielder Paul Ince, Manchester United striker Andy Cole or Sunderland defender Michael Gray.

Pearce, the 37-year-old West

Ham who last represented his country two years ago, and Sutton, who has yet to hit form since his summer transfer from Blackburn to Chelsea, were the surprise inclusions in the 27-man squad.

Pearce, known as 'Psycho' amongst England fans for his bruising style and manic commitment, last played for his country when he won the last of his 76 caps during the Le Tournoi competition in France in June 1997.

He has been drafted in for the clashes with European minnows Luxembourg at Wembley on September 4 and in Poland four days later.

Phil Neville is the only other recognised left-back in the squad following the unavailability of the injured Graeme Le Saux and the omission of Gray.

Keegan has obviously decided that he needs the experience of the former Newcastle and Nottingham Forest star for two games, which will make or break England's chances

SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 27: American Michael Johnson wrote himself into the history books at the World Championships when he shattered Butch Reynolds' 11-year-old 400 metres record here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The 31-year-old ran a stunning 43.18sec to obliterate Reynolds' record of 43.29.

Johnson's win was a historic moment for the United States, as he became the first American to win a 400m world title since 1968.

Johnson's victory was a testament to his incredible speed and endurance, as he broke a record that had stood for over three decades.

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